

How do I establish Internet safety?

The Internet can be a great resource for kids to learn new information, obtain help with school assignments, and keep in touch with distant friends and relatives. However, the Internet can also pose many dangers to children and parents need to take an active role in discussing Internet safety with them. Parents are encouraged to keep family computers with Internet access in a common area of the home in sight of adults. Clear guidelines should be established regarding the amount of time children can use the Internet for recreational purposes. Parents should take advantage of the technology that is currently available to block sites that contain adult material. There are also additional software programs that can be purchased to aid caretakers in filtering out explicit material.

Parents should speak with their children about the dangers of the Internet. They need to be aware that some people they meet online are not who they claim to be and that some adults attempt to lure children through the Internet in order to harm them. Parents need to enforce that children should not be speaking with people they do not know and that they should never give out their personal information. Parents should monitor their phone and Internet bills for unknown charges to assure that their children are not accessing inappropriate sites.

Whenever possible, caretakers should be nearby while children are using the Internet. Supervision is foremost important in helping your children make wise decisions while using the Internet.